

25 February 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

SUBJECT: Brainwashing

REFERENCES: A. Proposed Initial Press Release
B. Background Material
C. Top Secret Proposal 86566

25X1A

1. A member of the PY Staff has checked into all aspects of the subject with the following persons: Mr. Fischer of State; Lt. Carroll of Army PSYWAR and POC/S; Mr. Godall of Defense; Mr. Block of State; Mr. Gayner and [REDACTED] of CIA.

2. As of noon of this date, the situation is as follows:

a. PSB has received the three Defense documents attached hereto.

b. PSB will convene a Panel on which all agencies interested in the subject will be represented.

c. The Panel's first order of business will be to coordinate Defense's "Proposed Initial Press Release" (attached)

d. The Panel will next determine who should issue the release. (Mr. Godall feels the Army, being primarily involved, should sponsor it.)

e. The Panel, after it has had an opportunity to coordinate the "Background Material", will then immediately undertake the development of a counter program.

f. State Department has for some time had a small panel of its own (Kloman, Limbeck and Fischer) who have been studying the problem. The State panel has reservations about Defense's program to tell the American public all the facts about Brainwashing. The

panel fears a

AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADE:

Reclassify

Secret

When released from [REDACTED]

Secret Enclosure

~~TOP SECRET~~

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panel fears a reaction—a demand that our POW's be brought home no matter what the cost, including return of all commie POW's.

3. PY feels the Defense proposal has merit and will be prepared to offer suggestions for its successful implementation thru the CIA member of the PSB Panel on the subject, when designated.

4. PY feels that it is impossible at this time to set out a prepared program for the conduct of the campaign against brainwashing because of:

a. The wide dispersal of the information on the subject—missionaries, UN POW's, Indo-Chinese and French, Japanese, etc. who have been brainwashed have been allowed to go home with little or no debriefing;

b. Such materials as do exist on the subject are physically widely scattered—Korea, Japan, State, the Pentagon, CIA, England, France;

c. Until a coordinating group, such as the PSB panel, takes control and notified all interested parties of that fact, the situation will be fluid and sudden events e.g., the Chinese announcement of the Marine fliers' confessions and General Clark's immediate statement about "brain-annihilation" and his expression of "sympathy" for the victims—will throw any uncoordinated program, no matter how well thought out, off the track or even harm the program. The PSB Panel appears to be the proper answer and it should be instructed to lay out a program immediately.

5. At the moment of this writing, ^{25X1A} [redacted] of CIA, Mr. Morgan of PSB, Mr. Godell of Defense, and Mr. Phillips of State are meeting to discuss further details about setting up the Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

6. PY recommends that the Panel approach its work with these three ends in view:

a. To counter all past and future "confessions" by UNC personnel about BW, atrocities, and similar crimes or acts the Soviets see fit to charge us with in the future.

b. Prepare the American public for the shock of seeing returned POW's apparently confirmed commies.

c. Encourage the passage in the UN of a resolution condemning the Communists for the invention and practice of menticide, a crime against the laws of nature, God and man.

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[redacted]

Deputy Chief,

Psychological Warfare Division

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Addressee - Orig. PY/EXO - 1 PY/EX - 1 [redacted] - 1 [redacted] 2 of 4 COPIES

Security Information

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

NO att.

SECRET

Brainwashing

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

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NO.

DATE

| TO | ROOM NO. | DATE | | OFFICER'S INITIALS | COMMENTS |
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| | | REC'D | FWD'D | | |
| 1. <i>BCD</i> | 25 FEB 1953 | 25 FEB 1953 | FEB 1953 | <i>W.M.</i> | <i>- file open a brainwashing panel file.</i> |
| 2. <i>PP</i> | | | | | |
| 3. <i>PP/PP/PL</i> | | | | <i>PPH</i> | |
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